

Non-Executive Report of the:  <b>Council</b>  16th March 2022	 <b>TOWER HAMLETS</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Janet Fasan, Director of Legal and Monitoring Officer	<b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted
<b>Petitions to Council</b>	

<b>Originating Officer(s)</b>	Matthew Mannion, Head of Democratic Services
<b>Wards affected</b>	All wards

## SUMMARY

1. This report sets out details of the valid petitions submitted for presentation at the Council meeting on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022. The text of the petition received for presentation to this meeting is set out in the attached report.
2. The Council's Constitution provides for up to four petitions to be heard at each ordinary Council meeting. These are taken in order of receipt, except that petitions for debate (those in excess of 2,000 signatures) will take precedence. Should more than four petitions be received, all remaining petitions will be listed to be formally noted by Council.
3. For Petitions listed as to be heard:
  - a. Petitioners may address the meeting for no more than 3 minutes.
  - b. Members may then question the petitioners for a further 4 minutes.
  - c. Finally, the speaker will invite the Mayor or (at the Mayor's discretion) the relevant Lead Member or Committee Chair to respond to the petition for up to 2 minutes. The petition will then be referred to the relevant Corporate Director for attention who will provide a written response within 28 days of the date of the meeting.
4. Members, other than a Cabinet Member or Committee Chair responding at the end of the item, should confine their contributions to questions and not make statements or attempt to debate.
5. For Petitions listed as to be noted, petitioners may not address the meeting. The Speaker will state where they will go for a full response.

6. Responses to all petitions will be sent to the lead petitioner and displayed on the Council's website.

## **PETITIONS FOR DEBATE**

There are no petitions for debate.

## **PETITIONS TO BE HEARD**

### **5.1 Petition regarding Refuse & Recycling is collected on time – Keep our streets clean submitted by TBC and others**

We Demand Refuse & Recycling is collected on time – Keep our streets clean Across Tower Hamlets. There continues to be a failure to collect rubbish or provide proper recycling facilities. We demand that Tower Hamlets Council recognises its responsibilities, its failure to carry out the most basic of its duties - keeping the borough clean - and the risk this failure poses to the health and wellbeing of residents. Everybody wants clean streets and the ability to easily recycle but residents attempts to achieve this continues to be hampered by the wholly inadequate council service that they have to put up with. Residents have a basic right to have rubbish removed and proper access to recycling. We pay the ever-increasing Council Tax and Service Charges but received failed public cleaning services. For a cleaner and greener Tower Hamlets please sign this petition so it can be presented to Tower Hamlets Council.

### **5.2 Petition regarding Say no to underpass closure and overdevelopment of Aberfeldy – submitted by Foysool Hussain and others**

We the undersigned strongly object to the proposed Masterplan for Aberfeldy. On the following grounds:

1) NO CLOSURE OF ABBOT ROAD UNDERPASS - Aberfeldy is already isolated from the rest of the borough and access into the area is already limited, especially by car. If the proposal to turn this into a pedestrian and cycle underpass only and close it to cars goes ahead, in effect closing it, there will be significant inconvenience which will have a direct effect on residents as journey times will increase, more congestion and pollution due to the queuing traffic caused by road access into the area.

There are already two other underpasses for cyclists and pedestrian in proximity, so it does not make sense to convert this vital artery for cyclist and pedestrians only. It is bad enough that Aberfeldy is located adjacent to the Blackwall Tunnel, the traffic of which often cuts of the estate, closing this underpass will have a detrimental effect on residents and cut us of further. It makes more sense to make existing two underpasses safer. It would be better served by introducing safe protected cycle lanes and more facilities such as 24hr Surveillance and CCTV in existing underpasses rather than closing an

important route into Aberfeldy. We must also acknowledge these disruptive measures will lower the quality of life in the area and increase air pollution

2) NO TO OVERDEVELOPMENT AND HIGH-RISE BLOCKS - This high-density housing development proposed is unethical and will tarnish the existing character of the community in Aberfeldy. The number of units proposed will result in thousands of people moving into a small area, cut off from the rest of the brough, with limited provisions that barely meet the needs of existing community, let alone thousands more. Whether that be school, GP services, play provisions and open space, community services, etc. We oppose the high-rise blocks as the area does not have any high-rise blocks and allowing this will set a wrong precedent and feed into over development.

Additionally, the proposed development will cause havoc for existing residents with an influx of new cars in our neighbourhood. While the development is earmarked as car free, the reality as seen by recent developments in the area, has resulted parking chaos for residents. We already have ongoing issues with parking, the new car-free developments have made it near enough impossible for residents to find parking spaces in the vicinity of their homes, we are already facing unprecedented challenges with the existing number of vehicles, how are we expected to manage once the development has been complete?

We demand that these proposals are urgently reviewed with meaningful and inclusive consultation carried out with ALL residents of Aberfeldy area. The majority of the consultation carried out to date was focused on Poplar HARCA residents, leaving private and other housing residents out of key parts of the consultation processes.

Furthermore, lots of residents were not aware that a housing masterplan by Poplar HARCA and Eco World also included major roads and transport changes, so didn't participate in the consultation as they felt they are not affected by the housing issues.

We demand that separate consultation is carried out by the council and not the developers on any changes to roads and transport.

### **5.3 Petition regarding prolonged road closure from Colliers (developer) risks residents' lives, (including suffering nervous breakdowns due to continuous stress caused by road closure and constant appalling intrusions on their private life) submitted by Shorif Ahmed and others**

We, the undersigned, petition to the council to take necessary action to expedite the Hanbury Street construction work. Residents of Hanbury Street have been raising concerns about concurrent and inexcusable delays on Hanbury Street construction work from Colliers. The delayed work is attributable to contractor neglect and non-excludable but compensable. This is increasingly dangerous, particularly for learning difficult and vulnerable children living in the vicinity. The completion timeline was given by the

contractors was crossed a couple of months ago and now it is not reasonably foreseeable to extend the timing considering the following reasons:  
Prior consultation with the people living here for all of their lives and breaching all the planning laws and planning consent and co-operation was not taken from the residents. Delayed and detailed plan of work nothing been done where 43 of the vulnerable people live here and 31 of them were shielded by the NHS.

Resident parking bays were taken away without any consideration to temporary allocation elsewhere. No communication was provided for this. Residents with disabilities were left without any warning. This was never thought out or planned in advance as the project of building was the main priority

In the last two years, they have been under trauma, and last three months, they have not had appropriate access to evacuate if any fire incident is happened here. The road closure has stopped them from accessing any ambulatory or emergency services as well. It has a big group of people have been neglected, undermined for this development where we were promised, that our livelihood will be respected, our privacy will not be affected, and our health & safety will not be compromised.

Residents are being pushed through long term Depression, Dementia, some of us are going through life-threatening illnesses. Nothing have been considered in this estate. Planning law requires carrying out risk assessment regularly and the risk factor for the people who live in the development side and minimize the impact of their daily life and give the high priority in their health and safety. No current risk assessment procedures has been taken.

The local authorities have failed to carry out the risk assessment about fire and health risk for the majority of the residents because of their development. They developer have shut down all the access rights to the residents but not their contractors, which is a severe breach of the equal opportunity policy. The Landlord has failed to notify their tenant about wheelchair access and the form of transport for their mutability access to the NHS and Education for children with special needs.

The THH have failed to carry out the risk assessment and was unable to assess the resident's needs. The THH have neglected the vulnerable and elderly resident and the children with special educational needs. THH has to use the COVID 19 for their commercial benefits as this is not an excusable delay.

Therefore, this development work has failed to protect vulnerable residents rights, accessibility and they are at serious risk if any fire incident happens in the blocks. Moreover, the development has been unable to manage the risks and stop our daily activities. They also put our lives at serious risks by not giving access to Ambulance and Fire Brigades in case of emergency and not giving access to people with disability.

Therefore, please take the residents rights into consideration and protects them from life threatening situation.

#### **5.4 Petition regarding New Riverboat Service at Wapping Pier – submitted by Dominic Buxton and others**

We first raised this proposal in September 2021.

On 15 November 2021 Dominic Buxton and Mahbub Alam, organised a site visit to Wapping Pier by King Henry Wharf with Caroline Pidgeon AM (Chair of the London Assembly Transport Committee), representatives from Thames Clippers, Woods' Silver Fleet and residents. They discussed the proposal for refurbishing the pier and introducing a scheduled passenger riverboat service.

The commercial operators responded positively, and we are therefore now seeking to demonstrate local support with a petition.

We, the undersigned, are calling for the restoration and redevelopment of Wapping Pier and a new Thames Clippers passenger river bus service for residents and commuters to stop at Wapping Pier.

#### **PETITIONS TO BE NOTED**

None.